

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01192 150950Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 W  
-----116126 151833Z /43

R 150840Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9678  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T NIAMEY 1192

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR NIML UR US  
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH CHIEF OF STATE--DISCUSSES LAGOS TRIP AND  
MALI TROUBLES, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP  
1. DURING THE COURSE OF AUDIENCE TO DISCUSS MILITARY  
SALES REPORTED SEPTEL (NOTAL) THE CHIEF OF STATE COMMENTED  
TAHT HE HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH OBASANJO AND GARBA IN LAGOS.  
WITH A SLY GRIN HE COMMENTED THAT HE TOLD THE NIGERIANS  
THAT NIGER-NIGERIAN SECURITY COUNCIL CONFRONTATION IS PASSE.  
OBOUSLY HE WAS GENTLY CHIDING FON MIN GARBA WHO HAD NOT  
SO GENTLY CHIDED THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD  
DURING HIS LAGOS VISIT FOR FRANCE'S SUPPORT OF NIGER IN THAT  
CONTEST. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT NOTHING SHOULD EVER BE ALLOWED  
TO INTERFERE WITH THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NIGER AND NIGERIA.

2. KOUNTCHE DISCUSSED THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT CARTER WITH  
THE NIGERIAN LEADERS AND EMPHASIZED THAT ON THIS FIRST  
TRIP OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO AFRICA WITH NIGERIA AS  
THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT STOP AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT U.S.

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PRESIDENT'S LAGOS VISIT MAY RELATE MORE TO NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC  
SIZE AND POWER AND ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED  
STATES, OBASANJO MUST NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUAINT  
PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF AFRICA.  
WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS PREOCCUPIED WITH SOUTHERN  
AFRICA, THE SOVIETS ARE BUSY THROUGHOUT THE REST OF AFRICA.  
AGAIN KOUNTCHE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE SOVIET GOAL IS

NIGERIA. HE EMPHASIZED THIS TO OBASANJO AND HE CLAIMS THAT OBASANJO AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET GOALS.

3. THE EVENTS IN MALI ARE RELATED TO SOVIET GOALS AND HE, KOUNTCHE HAD WARNED TRAORE TWO WEEKS AGO OF THE THREAT POSED BYTHE SOVIETS. KOUNTCHE SEES SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE ALLEGED MALIAN COUP PLOT CITING RUSSIAN CONNECTION IN THE MALI CABINET, E.G. CISSOKO SPENT SOMETIME IN TASHKENT, OBASANJO SAID THIS SUPPORTS HIS FAVORITE THEORY THAT ONE RUSSIANROUTE TO NIGERIA IS THROUGH MALI. HE THINKS THEY ARE GETTING CLOSER.JAMES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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